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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 29 August 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the events in South Ossetia and Abkhazia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present statement could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 16 "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development".

(*Signed*) Ana **Radu**
Charge d'affaires a.i.

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Statement of the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the events in South Ossetia and Abkhazia

The Moldovan authorities and the entire Moldovan society followed with concern the development of events in South Ossetia and Abkhazia over the last weeks. Unfortunately, the parties to the year-long inter-ethnic conflict in Georgia have once again failed to find an adequate solution based on the standards of international law and human values. It has been transformed into a bloody drama, with casualties among the civilian population.

Categorically rejecting all methods of forcible settlement, including those of ensuring territorial integrity, the Moldovan Government does not consider, however, that international recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia will stabilize the situation. Just as in the case of the recognition of Kosovo, this will achieve nothing other than to reduce the responsibility of the parties to the conflict in finding a compromise and a way of identifying equitable and modern solutions by respecting the territorial integrity and observing human rights and freedoms.

At the same time, we deem it inappropriate to compare the situation in Georgia with the one in Transnistria. We also believe that speculations on how the situation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia might affect the Transnistrian settlement process are counterproductive. Moldova has already created very favourable prerequisites for its settlement and there is political will on all sides participating in the settlement to the conflict.

The Moldovan Government states that it will further determine its attitude towards the situation in South Ossetia and Abkhazia only in line with the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of the United Nations and all the current principles of international law.

Chişinău, 29 August 2008